

**DISTRICT ADVISORY BOARD
DISTRICT IV**

July 18, 2001 - 7:00 p.m.
Stanley/Aley Community School Center, 1749 S. Martinson
www.wichitagov.org

Members Present

Paul Ward
Dorman Blake
Wayne Wells
Bea Vickers
Jerry McGinty
June Bailey
Ed Koon
Iola Crandall
Tom Kessler

Members Absent

Council Member Gale

Staff

Chris Carrier, Storm Water Engineer
Cathy Holdeman, Director of
Administrative Services
Aaron Hamilton, Neighborhood Assistant

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Call to Order

Ed Koon called the meeting to order, explaining the purpose of the District Advisory Board as representatives of District IV residents who provide input for consideration in City Council actions. He also noted that everyone would be able to voice their thoughts on the different issues discussed and there would be no time limit placed on any comments.

Approval of Minutes

Coon asked for approval of the minutes for the June 6, 2001 meeting. A correction was noted on by **June Bailey** on pg. 3, Board Agenda section that “through his house” should be replaced with “to his house”. **Bailey** also noted on pg. 4, section two that “hoping” should be replaced with “helping”. **Bailey** also noted that “Orchard Park” should be replaced with “Orchard Breeze”. **Paul Ward** that “June 4” should be replaced with “June 2”. **Bailey** moved to accept minutes, **Jerry McGinty** gave a second. Minutes were approved 9-0.

Approval of Agenda

Ed Koon asked if there were any additions to the agenda. There were none. **Jerry McGinty** moved to accept the agenda. **Dorman Blake** seconded. The agenda was approved 9-0.

Public Agenda

No items were on the public agenda.

Planning Agenda

No items were on the agenda for Planning

Action: No Action Necessary.

New Business

1. Presentation by Cathy Holdeman and Roy Lohmann of Community Solutions Inc. on the subject of a Day Reporting Center (DRC)

*Cathy Holdeman, Director of Administrative Services for the City of Wichita, presented information about the possible placement of a Day Reporting Center to be placed in the City of outside the building. **Holdeman** mentioned her presentation would be followed by representatives of Community Solutions, INC. (CSI) who would be able to answer some of the detailed questions that might be asked. CSI was represented by **Ron Lohmann, Director of Community Services Inc., Bridgette Franklin, Assistant Director, and Kristy Gates, parole officer.***

Holdeman explained the City became involved when the Twin Lakes site was being considered. The City Council asked the State if the City of Wichita could be involved with locating a facility and the state agreed. All locations were zoned improperly so an ordinance was changed to accommodate the State's request. In the past alternative correctional housing (ACH) or halfway houses were not regulated. The City created an ordinance and amended it on May 8, 2001 addressing concerns of the distance rule stating the facility must be at least 1200' from housing and schools. After looking at approximately 50 sites, the staff has come up with two that they feel are the best fit: Harry and McLean (District IV) and Bridgeport (District VI). The sites were reviewed by the City Council and sent back to the ACH Board and DAB IV and DAB VI for recommendations. They were sent back to the Boards to get official citizen input.

In order for CSI to open, they have to apply for a license. Licenses were reviewed by the Office of Central Inspection and both were denied based on location. The ACH will make a recommendation to make a waiver for one of the sites.

The reasons why the Harry and McLean site was chosen:

- Easily accessible by bus
- City already owns the land
- There is a work-release facility currently on the land
- There is an enhanced law-enforcement presence in this area
- City owns the land behind it which can act as a buffer
- It is closer to necessary facilities (counseling, jobs, etc.)

The main disadvantages of this site:

- Proximity to houses
- Proximity to schools

The Bridgeport site is being considered because:

- It is an industrial area
- It is a large lot with room for expansion
- The land around it is vacant
- Not as close to residences
- Bus service is available

The main disadvantages of this site are:

- Not as close to services as Harry and McLean site

Holdeman turned the floor over to **Ron Lohmann**.

Lohmann will be the director of the facility. **Lohmann** has been running prison programs in Texas for seven years. CSI has been through the same concerns in other communities. CSI was started in 1964 and was the first such company to be certified.

This Day Reporting Center will be the largest of the three in Kansas (Kansas City, Topeka, and Wichita) as it will house up to 150 parolees at once. The hours have been adjusted from the original plan. They will now be open from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Monday through Friday and 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Saturday. They will not officially be open Sunday's although some programs may take place then. The program is 90 days long for each parolee.

Public safety is their main concern. He assured the highest level of security. Prisoners will be tracked 24 hours a day via satellite. They can identify buffer zones prisoners can travel in. Of all the people on parole in Wichita, these will be under the highest level of surveillance. Their programs are based around the cognitive model. If prisoners are not in the building, they are expected to have a job, do at least 50 hours of community service, and give back to the community. There will be no nonsense in terms of parolees acting out of line. If they make a mistake, they go back to prison. Texas had a 90% success rate of their people not going back to prison vs. the national average of 60-70%.

The following are questions and comments from the public. Answers are listed with answers in italics when available. Comments are in bullets:

Is the program 90 days?

Yes.

How long does it takes to track the parolees with their ankle devices if they were to go across the street to the river?

If they cross the buffer zones, CSI is alerted and CSI can communicate with the parolees directly through the ankle device.

Will bikepaths be safe?

There are already parolees on the streets. The big deterrents for these people will be that they can be tracked 24 hours a day so they know exactly where they've been at all times.

Will felons be brought into the facility?

Yes, but they are already in the community.

Is it was more of a risk to bring in 120 parolees into a concentrated area?

Yes, but again, they are already in the area.

How will safety be ensured in the area, particularly, kids walking to and from school?
There would not be 120 parolees at the site at once. They will be at jobs and in the facility. There will be 40-50 there at any given time. There are no guarantees with these people. There will be a strong, structured program with strong supervision. Incidents can happen anywhere but the surveillance is a big deterrent. If the program isn't put in place, it will be bad for the rehabilitation of prisoners.

There is a large of amount of students from troubled homes in the area.
The punishment for violating their parole would be severe.

What type of people will be in the DRC?
All types of criminals will be accepted to this facility. CSI is contracted to take all kinds of parolees regardless of their background. The only people they would turn down would be ones who would disrupt the program.

What is going to happen to property value?
We don't know.

Twin Lakes didn't want it, downtown doesn't want it, why not put it in the old SRS building?

Who will pay to move in if CSI doesn't renew their contract?
The City will make sure the bonds were paid off. They had CSI sign a three-year contract to operate the facility. The City would be able to lease out another tenant to pay off the bonds. Lohmann noted that the Federal Government pays for about 90% of the funding costs.

Are there any homes in the area with child care facilities? Do the bars and liquor stores meet the 1200' measurement?
We do not know if there were such facilities in any of the homes that fall into this measurement.

Can the ankle bracelets be removed?
Yes.

Why not use the Rounds and Porter building downtown?
Renovating the building would cost about \$13 million. The facility is currently being used for storage. It also does not lend itself to multiple uses.

What will the City do with the building?
It could possibly be a public safety complex. There is a task force working on it. It is a good location but has serious architectural and structural problems.

What it would cost to fix up the facility at Harry and McLean?
\$800 thousand.

Why not just tear down the Rounds and Porter Building and put it there?

- With the Day Reporting Center, Work Release facility, and the new Household Hazardous Waste facility going in, it feels like the south and southwest part of town gets dumped on them whatever no one else wants.
- Please reconsider downtown.
- **Penny Peggs** and **Barbara Haynes** each presented over 100 signatures of citizens opposing the Harry and McLean site.
- The City seems to be speaking out of both sides of its mouth saying they want development but are considering putting this kind of facility right on the river.
- There are always children on the bikepath. The Bridgeport site has nothing going on except for soccer.
- Don't understand why this facility would be put in this area.

Holdeman announced there would be an ACH meeting Thursday, July 19, 2001 at 12:00 noon in the City Hall Conference Room. She also noted the City Council will be voting on the item at the July 24, 2001 Council meeting.

Ed Koon asked if any of the District Advisory Board members had any comments.

The following are questions and comments from the District Advisory Board members. Answers are in italics where applicable. Comments are in bullets.

Dorman Blake asked are there any schools around the Bridgeport site?

Yes, there is one housed in the Love Box company facility.

Blake asked what happens if the parolees commit a second offense?

That is up to the judicial system and whichever judge is trying the case.

- **Paul Ward** said he couldn't see why the City would want to put this facility here so is opposed to it. He noted his concern of expansion in the future.
- **Wayne Wells** said it has no business in an area for the reasons mentioned above. He also hopes the City will do something in time with the P-Farm. He cannot support a recommendation for the Harry and McLean site.
- **Wells** moved to recommend the Bridgeport site. Member Ward gave a second.
- **Koon** opened the floor for discussion.
- **Jerry McGinty** voiced concerns about transportation to the Bridgeport site. After traveling to the Ohio (Bridgeport) site, he noticed the buses only go to 29th and 37th streets respectively. He was concerned about them having to change buses. No one wants the site in their district; the City doesn't want the site; but he will have to lean towards the Harry and McClean site due to proximity to services and transportation. This is a good opportunity to rehabilitate the parolees.

- **Blake** said that people are safer if they are switching buses than if they are in the Harry and McLean area.

Action: The motion passed (6-1) with two members abstaining due to conflicts of interests with other boards (Parks Board and MAPC).

Koon called a recess.

2. **Presentation by Chris Carrier, Storm Water Engineer, on Flooding in District IV**

Chris Carrier presented the Master Plan for Stormwater. It includes \$48 million in improvements including trunk sewers and gravity lines to the river. A consultant was hired to study every option that the City had for upgrading the City's water and sewer system. Carrier had hoped they would support a pump station at West Street but that alone would have exceeded the \$48 million mark. The first project will start next year. The project will team up with every street it goes down.

The following are questions and comments from the District Advisory Board. Answers are in italics when applicable. Comments are in bullet form.

How unpaved streets were affected?

All plans right now are just concepts. The full scope of the project will be measured by the consultant before construction starts. Complaints and pictures of the areas of flooding around the Maple and West street are have been taken. There are scheduled Maple improvements on the 2004-2005 CIP. Some of the problems the City is experiencing now is that new sewer lines are running into older, smaller drainage pipes. Each new pump station installed is about \$500,000.

What is the current status of drainage in the West street area?

The current paving causes the water to circle instead of drain properly. The current configuration causes the streets to drain against each other. Improvements will be made that will drain West Street water to the river.

Will the priority one on the Master Drainage map be addressed in 2001?

Part of it.

Jerry McGinty asked if there were any improvements planned for the 31st street to Pawnee area?

Iola Crandall asked when was the last time there was extensive drainage work done?

All the time but there is still the problem of replacing the old pipes to the new pipes drain properly. The City has spent over \$200 million just since he's been working there. He also noted they have never had a complaint after a project was done.

Bailey asked if they could get the dollar amounts specifically for District IV. Orchard Breeze has been asking for seven years for flooding help. How much is in the CIP for Orchard Breeze?

Carrier said there are other funding sources the City is currently seeking out. He explained the ERU grant. Carrier left his phone number as 268-4498.

- **Bailey** said that some of the neighborhoods are teaming up to make sure this subject stays on the forefront of the CIP.
- **Iola Crandall** said the school on Maple street floods.
- **Dorman Blake** noted Seneca from Pawnee to 31st S. still doesn't drain properly. **Carrier** said the new sewer runs into the old lines so it can't keep up with the improvements.

Koon asked if there were any other questions.

Bailey thanked **Carrier** for coming to present to them.

Action: Receive and File.

BOARD AGENDA

OTHER

June Bailey – We need to push to keep this on the CIP! The Park Board met about the Linwood Park issue. She explained there could be an exchange of land that would take away 4.82 acres of land for the proposed new school but would also add two parks to District IV as well as 16 other acres of land. There has been a lot of bad press but nothing mentioned about the possibility of an exchange.

Ed Koon – Would like to discuss the Linwood Park issue at the August 1, 2001 meeting.

Dorman Blake – Set up three new neighborhood associations since the last meeting – Southside, Applewood Farms, and Mona Kay

Recommended Action: Receive and file.

Next Meeting

The next scheduled meeting of the District IV Advisory Board will be held on August 1, 2001 at 7:00 p.m. in the Stanley/Aley Neighborhood Center.

No Action Required.

With no further business, **Bailey** moved that the meeting be adjourned and **Ward** seconded. **Member Ed Koon** adjourned the meeting at 9:15 p.m.

Guests

Muriel Love
Louise Josserand
Penny Peggs
Tara Stout
Reva Cooley

Vonnona Conder
Bridgette Franklin
James Smith
Irene Armstrong
Chuck Cooley

Phyllis McCabe
Barbara Haynes
Filimon Silva
Freda Reynolds

Robert McCosky
Dolores Whitehead
Pauline Silva
Harvey Finley

Respectfully Submitted,

Aaron Hamilton
Neighborhood Assistant